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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:
USAMI, Takayuki, et al

Serial Number: 09/966,389

Filed: September 27, 2001

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Group Art Unit: 1742

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97(b)

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

February 6, 2003

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. One copy of each of these documents is attached.

Japanese-Language Publications of Documents AB and AC were filed in the Patent and Trademark Office on February 14, 2002.

Document AD was cited in Office Action dated December 12, 2001.

Japanese-Language Publications of Documents AE and AF were filed in the Patent and Trademark Office on December 28, 2001. Also, Concise Explanations of Documents AE and AF were filed in the Patent and Trademark Office on February 5, 2002.

Documents AA, AG and AH were first cited in Taiwanese Office Action dated November 13, 2002, for a corresponding Taiwan application of another U.S. Application S.N. 10/005,880. A copy of the Office Action along with English translation is also enclosed.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/966,389

No fee or certification is required in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement, since it is being submitted prior to the issuance of a first official action on the merits following the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in the above-identified patent application.

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office can, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the documents cited in the attached Form PTO-1449 be made of record therein and appear on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 01-2340 for any fee which is deemed by the Patent and Trademark Office to be required to effect consideration of this statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosures:

1. PTO-1449
2. References (11)
3. Taiwanese Office Action dated November 13, 2002, for a corresponding Taiwan application of another U.S. Application S.N. 10/005,880, w/English Translation